

URBAN ALLIANCE

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learn more at:

www.theurbanalliance.org/RCT

who we are

Urban Alliance is a youth workforce nonprofit headquartered in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1996, Urban Alliance provides at-risk high school seniors – those still in school with the potential to attend college, but lacking a post-high school plan – to aspire and succeed.

where we work

- Washington, DC – 1996
- Baltimore – 2003
- Chicago – 2008
- Northern Virginia – 2012

what we do

For over 20 years, Urban Alliance has partnered with the business community to serve more than 3,000 at-risk youth through our flagship High School Internship Program. During the 10-month program, youth receive weekly professional skills training, a paid internship placement, and one-on-one mentoring and support from caring adults. The program's ultimate goal is to expand a young person's idea of what is possible for their future, and prepare them for the working world and a life of long-term self-sufficiency.

evaluating our work

In 2011, Urban Alliance embarked upon a six-year randomized controlled trial of the High School Internship Program. Urban Institute, an independent, nonprofit, research organization, followed 1,062 Washington, D.C. and Baltimore youth from the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. Admittance to the program in those two years was based upon a randomized lottery to account for factors (such as motivation) that could affect outcomes for both the control group and program participants, and followed each group of students through the beginning of their third year post-program.

our results

Completed this year, the study found positive results in three key areas:

MALE COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

The probability of attending college was 23 percentage points greater for males who completed the program than for those who did not participate.

SOFT SKILLS COMFORT

Students in the program showed greater comfort with soft skills – such as speaking with adult coworkers, making presentations, and submitting work assignments on time – than their peers who did not participate. This was especially true among young men, and the result for males was still evident two years after high school.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Students with GPAs between 2.0 and 3.0 who completed the program increased their chances of enrolling in four-year colleges by 18 percentage points.

